



Arizona Department of Education  
**Research and Evaluation Section**  
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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Superintendents, Charter Holders, Principals, and Testing Coordinators

**FROM:** Dr. Robert J. Franciosi  
Deputy Associate Superintendent

**DATE:** July 25, 2008

**SUBJECT:** **IMPORTANT. Release of 2008 AIMS Results; 2008 AZ LEARNS Achievement Profiles and AYP Evaluations.**  
**(REF: RE08003-E)**

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This memo is to inform you of the updated timeline for the release of 2008 AIMS results, and other important information regarding 2008 AZ LEARNS achievement profiles and AYP evaluations.

- I. NEW Date for the Release of AIMS Results.** AIMS results for math, reading, and writing will be released to the public on Wednesday, August 6, 2008. Science results will still be released on the date announced previously: September 17, 2008.

**NOTE:** The AIMS results released will not be broken down into Category 1 and Category 2 students as in previous years. In order to continue the transition to a unified reporting system, the aggregate results for schools, districts/charter holders, counties, and the state will be for all students, including those who have taken the AIMS-A.

- II. New AYP Evaluations for K-2 Schools.** A new method for determining AYP for K-2 schools has been approved by the U.S. Department of Education. Please refer to the February 5<sup>th</sup> letter to Kerri Briggs at

<http://www.ade.az.gov/azlearns/ArizonaWorkbookAmendments2008.pdf>

for a description of the new method.

- III. Changes to AZ LEARNS.** The following changes have been made to the method of calculating AZ LEARNS profiles:

- 1. Growth/Improvement.** Growth/improvement points will now be awarded for grades 4, 6, and 7. In addition changes have been made to the cutpoints for other grades, and the method of calculating growth/improvement has been modified.
- 2. Unified profile for K12 schools.** Schools serving both elementary/middle and high school will now receive a single AZ LEARNS profile instead of two.

For details on both these changes please refer to the memo at:

[http://www.ade.az.gov/azlearns/08\\_03\\_24AZLEARNSThanges.pdf](http://www.ade.az.gov/azlearns/08_03_24AZLEARNSThanges.pdf)

**IV. Appeal of AYP determination.** A school may appeal its AYP determination if it did not make AYP because of the inclusion of ELL students and not making AYP adversely affected its AZ LEARNS profile. If a school appeals the inclusion of ELL students in its AYP determination, the determination will be recalculated with ELL students counting as tested but not included in the AMO calculation.

**NOTE:** This appeal will only affect AYP as it is included in the AZ LEARNS determination. It will not change a school's official AYP determination or school improvement status.

**V. Exclusion of ELL students.** The fields "valid" and "ellyear" in the ADE AIMS data sets have been recalculated for the years 2005 to the present. From 2005 forward, the number of years a student has spent in the ELL program is being counted starting in kindergarten. English language learners who have been in the program three years or less are not included in the status/growth and z-score portions of the AZ LEARNS profile.

**VI. Appeal of Writing Scores.** The appeal allowed in previous years regarding the impact of fluctuations in writing scores will not be considered valid this year.

If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact Research and Evaluation at 602-542-5151 or email [achieve@ade.az.gov](mailto:achieve@ade.az.gov)